Penalty against informers for unsuccessful FERA raids

963. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2018 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th March 1990 and state:

(a) what kind of precautions against wilful, malicious and false informations are taken;

(b) whether these precautions are considered enough and if not, what further precautions Government propose to take in the matter: and

(c) what are the reasons for not imposing penalty against such informers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Before reeciving the informations in respect of FERA violations, Section 58(2) of F.E.R. Act, 1973 is brought to the notice of the informer. It reasd as follows:

"(2) Any persons wilfully and maliciously giving false information and so causing an arrest or a search to be made under this Act shall, upon conviction by court, by punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or with both."

Under the reward rules applicable to informers, on the income tax side, the informer is required to give an undertaking that if the information given by him is found to be false he would be liable to prosecution. The already existing provisions are considered adequate for deterring the informers from furnishing wrong and false information deliberately.

Removal of Photographic colour Paper and Graphic art films from OGL

964. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI J. S. RAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact tht in the past the Department of Revenue had recommended to the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports to remove photographic colour paper and graphic art films frm OGL; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, in 1985, Import Policy of an item is decided keeping in view various factors such as demand, indigenous production, quality and price differential etc. The suggestion received for removal of photographic colour paper and graphic art films from the list of imports under OGL were considered accordingly. Howefer, they were not found to be acceptable.

Export of Cotton Bales

965. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of cotton that Government propose to export during the current year; and

(b) what quantity of cotton was exported during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Government have so far released quotas for the export of 13.85 lakh bales of cotton during the 1989-90 cotton season.

(b) 8.77 lakh bales of cotton were exported during the 1988-89 cotton season.

Appointment of SC/ST Directors in the Public Sector undertakings

966. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Executive Directors and other Directors are on the Board of S.T.C., M.M.T.C., P.E.C. and H.H.E.C. at present;

(b) how many of them belong to the scheduled Castes and Tribes respectively; and

(c) if there are no SC/ST directors in the above mentioned undertaking what steps Government propose to take to appoint at least one Executive Director belonging to SC/ST on each of the boards of the above undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Details of full-time and part-time Directors on the Boards of STC, MMTC, PEC and HHEC at present are as under:—

	STC	MMTC	PEC	HHEC
Full time	4	6	3	1
Part time	5	5	3	8

(b) **None.**

(c) For appointment of full-time Directors on the Boards of PSUs, the finalisation of panel of names is done by Public Enterprises Selection Board. At the time of making selections, PESB also considers eligible candidates belonging to SC and ST.

As regards part-time ex-officio Directors, such appointments are made by nominating only the officers dealing with the concerned subject.

utstanding Loans Advanced by Nationalised Banks to Cotton Growers of Andhra Pradesh

967. Dr. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of outstanding loans advanced by the nationalised banks to the cotton growers in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any representations were received from the distressed cotton growers for debt relief; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that their data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for.

(b) and (c) Government and Reserve Bank of India have been receiving various representations for providing relief to the cotton growers in Prakasam and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh. Government of India appointed a High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. D. Ojha, Deputy Governor of RBI to look into the problems of cotton growers in these two districts. Based on the recommendations of the High Power Committee RBI had issued instructions in June 1988 to scheduled commercial banks for providing relief to cotton growers in Prakasam and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh Important relief measures recommended are:

(i) The banks as a special case, should defer recovery of principal as well as interest from the affected farmers for a period of two years